

FACTSHEET

Plant Protection & Quarantine

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

June 1997

Procedure for Importing Unmanufactured Wood Products

On June 5, 1997, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California enjoined the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) from issuing new specific permits for the importation of certain types of unmanufactured wood products.

APHIS is currently accepting permit applications for all unmanufactured wood products but will not issue any permits for those wood products that are enjoined by the court until the injunction is lifted. The ruling will be in effect for an indefinite period of time.

The preliminary injunction is directed toward the following commodities, which require a specific permit to enter the United States:

- temperate logs (including cants),
- temperate lumber, and
- solid wood packing material imported as cargo (dunnage, pallets, etc.).

For these commodities (exceptions are explained below), new specific permits will not be issued, and existing permits covering these commodities will not be amended. Existing specific permits for the above commodities are still valid, and importation can continue as long as the requirements of the permit are met.

The following wood commodities are **not** affected by the preliminary injunction and can continue to be imported:

- Temperate logs (including cants) and temperate lumber covered under existing specific permits that have not expired.
- Temperate logs (including cants) and temperate lumber that originate in Canada or adjacent States in Mexico. Wood products in this category do not require a specific permit for entry.
- Solid wood packing material imported with commodities. Wood products in this category do not require a specific permit for entry.
- Solid wood packing material imported as cargo that is under specific permits currently in effect.

- Bamboo timber from all locations. Predominantly, these products require a specific permit for importation.
- Logs and lumber from tropical timber species, which grow naturally only in tropical climates. These products require a specific permit for importation.
- Cross-ties (railroad ties) from all locations except temperate Asia. These products require a specific permit for importation.
- Wood chips and bark chips from all locations except temperate Asia. These products require a specific permit for importation.
- Wood mulch, humus, compost, and litter. These products require a specific permit for importation.
- Cork and cork bark. These products require a specific permit for importation.

All of the above wood commodities are still regulated under APHIS' Wood Import Regulation and may need to meet pest-reduction regulatory requirements for entry into the United States. These requirements can be found in the final rule *Importation of Logs, Lumber, and Other Unmanufactured Wood Articles* in the Federal Register, vol. 60, no. 101, pages 27665–27682. If a specific permit is required for importation, then the appropriate import requirements will also be attached to the permit.

Application forms to request specific permits for the importation of wood products or information on the status of specific wood product importations can be obtained from:

USDA–APHIS–Plant Protection and Quarantine
Permit Unit

4700 River Road, Unit 136
Riverdale, MD 20737–1236

301–734–5055

301–734–8700 (fax)

dknott@aphis.usda.gov

You may direct questions on the status of the court decision to:

USDA–APHIS–Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Unit 51
Riverdale, MD 20737–1232

301–734–7280
301–734–5205 (fax)

bjones@aphis.usda.gov